

PHILIP  
JAMISON  
**JONES**  
*Winery*

BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE  
OFFICE OF THE BUREAU CHIEF

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February 1, 2010

Paul E. Stacey  
Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, Planning & Standards Division  
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Dear Paul,

I am the 6<sup>th</sup> generation to work the land on my family's 400 acre farm in Shelton. Water is extremely important for the crops we grow. Without access to water our ability to farm would be severely compromised. We use water for irrigating during times of inadequate rainfall and for frost protection in the spring and fall. We use water from ponds that have been part of farm for decades; one was even constructed by my great grandfather. We are judicious in our use of water. It is expensive to pump water and overuse can harm a crop. We have set up trickle irrigation tubing and small sprinklers to maximize the efficiency of our water usage when necessary. We recognize water is the basis for life and should be conserved.

I believe the DEP is trying to work in the best interest of water conservation in our state. However, I have some grave concerns that the DEP may overlook the importance of our state's farms and have some unintended consequences. Connecticut farmers are stewards of the land for much of the open space left in our state. Water is critically important for our ability to remain economically viable. Without the ability access water affordably, many farms could be sold for development and important open space could be permanently lost.

There has also been a strong local food movement recently because of the concerns over where food is being grown and the environmental consequence of shipping it thousands of miles. Connecticut has the ability to grow many fruits and vegetables right here. Wouldn't it be ironic if water regulations in our state made it more economical to keep bringing in food from thousands of miles away instead of growing it right here.

I believe it is extremely important that we understand our water resources and ensure there is enough for our delicate ecosystems, for our farmers to produce food for our citizens and for future generations. I hope you will engage the farming community in our state and find a way to achieve all three of these objectives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jamie Jones